

Navy Public Works Center  
Detachment Philadelphia  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

**BLADE GUARDS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE DEVICES**  
**ON TABLE SAWS**

PROCEDURE NUMBER 500 .17

**DISCLAIMER:** These Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are for the exclusive use of NAVY PUBLIC WORKS CENTER (PWC) NORFOLK DETACHMENT PHILADELPHIA. They are promulgated as guidance for other NAVFAC COMMANDS. If intended to be used by other Activities, they must be tailored to each Activities particular requirement and must be reviewed/approved by the activities Safety Professionals prior to use.

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*Preparer:* \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

*Approved:* \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

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*Department Head:* \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

*Officer in Charge* \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

## **Standard Operating Procedure for Blade Guards And Other Protective Devices On Table Saws**

This procedure applies to over the top mounted guards. This SOP will be attached to all table saws in use within Code 500 shops. Personnel using table saws will be instructed in the proper use by the supervisor in charge of operation.

**1. Blade Guards.** The blade guard must rest on the saw table when not in use. When in use, the guard must be in contact with material being cut. The blade guard will be adjusted so that the guard covers the full diameter of the blade in a manner that if the operators hand was placed on the material, the hand would contact the guard well forward of the blade. When performing cuts other than 90 degrees, the guard will be adjusted in the following manner:

- A. Release the adjustment handle on the upper portion of the guard arm.
- B. Slide the guard in until the blade has a clearance on either side of the blade.
- C. Re-tighten the adjustment handle.
- D. Re-check blade clearance.
- E. Proceed with the contact with the guard.
- F. If the blade contacts the guard at any point, re-adjust the guard or get assistance, from supervisor.

**2. Spreader Bar (Splitter).** The spreader bar will be attached directly to the blade assembly base so that it moves with any angular adjustment of the blade. It is located directly behind the blade and is designed to prevent the material being cut with less than the width of the spreader bar is not permitted on these saws. The spreader bar does not normally require adjustment. If adjustment is necessary, the person responsible for maintenance of the equipment will be contacted.

### **3. Anti-Kick Back Device.**

The anti-kick back device will be mounted on the saw in such a manner that it will prevent the material being cut from kicking back toward the operator or lifting up. It must be in contact with the material being cut until the material fully passes through the blade. The device will be mounted so that it does not interfere with the safe operation and use of a push stick, if needed. The standard anti kick back device adopted for use by Code 500 is a guard mounted, an anti kickback wheel. The device will be adjusted as follows:

- A. Release the adjusting knob at the top of the device.
- B. Adjust the anti-kick back device in or out as appropriate for the width of the material.
- C. Re-tighten the adjusting arm.
- D. To adjust tension of the device:
  - 1. Release the thumb screw on the back side of the device.

2. Adjust the device so that it is full contact with the material being cut.
3. Re-tighten the thumb screw.

E. If materials bind in the blade:

1. Turn the saw off immediately.
2. Push down on the release lever to allow the device to release the material. Release of the lever will automatically re-lock the device.
3. Remove the material from the saw.

F. **Push Sticks**. Push sticks will be used at any time that the material being cut is less than six inches between the blade and the rip-guide. The material on the open side of the blade will be permitted to run free.

G. **Exceptions**: Federal regulations prohibit deviation from above requirements, if any of the protective devices fail, or if the saw fails to operate properly, secure the saw immediately and contact the supervisor responsible for maintenance of the equipment. The following exceptions apply to this SOP:

1. When performing cuts, which do not permit the blade to penetrate the wood, the spreader bar must be removed.
2. Any operation which involves crosscutting. The anti-kick back device, which is attached to the rip guide, is not required since cross cutting is accomplished with a guide.

**NOTE:**

**All guards removed for these exceptions will be replaced immediately following the operation and before the operator leaves the saw.**